

Today's News - Tuesday, June 26, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry for the short news day, but we're experiencing major Internet problems in (sweltering) Arizona. Hopefully, it will be resolved before tomorrow.

- With Australia's GBCA launch of Green Star - Communities rating tool, Thornton ponders some questions surrounding sustainable communities: "What has really been lacking is the very notion of 'community.'"
- Hausman reports from BWAf's "A View from the Future" forum, where panelists proffer: "We're not in a recession...but rather a fundamental transformation"; we need to manage risk and encourage innovation (and "savvy firms will realize the benefit that women bring to design and construction").
- While some say the recession is creating a new "lost generation" of architects, others say the concept "may be exaggerated."
- Heathcote has a heart-to-heart with Calatrava prior to his exhibition opening at the Hermitage: while his "structural acrobatics have become the default style of contemporary blockbuster architecture...It is, perhaps, hardly fair to blame him for inspiring the ambitions of those less able."
- Foster tapped to design Garatti's never-completed ballet school in Cuba.
- Berger explores Yeosu Expo 2012 in South Korea and, with a few caveats, finds it "a gem of a fair."
- Bernstein tackles a topic close to our hearts: architecture firm websites - "the good, the bad, and the ugly" (please, please take heed!!!).
- Will Bruder + Partners makes an "amicable" split.
- Call for entries: City of Sydney's Green Square Town Centre Library and Green Square Plaza International Competition (we'll keep you posted re: deadline).

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Answering the Questions Behind Sustainable Communities: With the GBCA officially launching their new Green Star – Communities PILOT rating tool last week, questions are once again arising surrounding sustainable communities – and rightly so...What has really been lacking...is the very notion of "community." By Dean Thornton- DesignBuild Source (Australia)

Are You Ready for the Future? If futurist Edie Weiner can be believed..."We're not in a recession...but rather a fundamental transformation," such as when we advanced from an industrial to a post-industrial society...we need to manage risks in a way that still encourages innovation. Indeed, progress requires risk... By Tami Hausman, Ph.D. -- Weiner, Edrich, Brown; Jane Chmielinski/AECOM; Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation (BWAf); Jurij Paraszczak; Michael De Chiara; MaryAnne Gilmartin; Ana Bertuna- DesignIntelligence

'Lost generation' of architects still here: ...the current recession has forced many recent graduates to seek work elsewhere. However, some also say the concept of a "lost generation"...may be exaggerated...even finding an entry-level position is no guarantee that graduates will be able to hold onto those industry jobs. -- Waterleaf Architecture; Group Mackenzie; ZGF Architects; GBD Architects; LEVER Architecture; Yost Grube Architecture. - Daily Journal of Commerce (Oregon)

A man with a span: Santiago Calatrava, best known for his innovative bridges, talks about his career highs and lows. When he first appeared on the scene in the 1980s, his work was a revelation....structural acrobatics have become the default style of contemporary blockbuster architecture....at his best he is still capable of creating awesome structures – as the Hermitage show confirms. It is, perhaps, hardly fair to blame him for inspiring the ambitions of those less able. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Foster to design Cuban ballet school: Arts complex project led by the Royal Ballet's Carlos Acosta. The derelict building was meant to be used as a national arts school, set up as one of four by Fidel Castro, but was never completed. -- Vittorio Garatti (1961); Foster + Partners [image]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Seattle in Korea: a world's fair tale: World's fairs are still happening. This year, a small port city in South Korea attempts to do what Seattle did in 1962...A goal is to turn the working port of Yeosu into a major tourism hub, or as they say, to make it a "beautiful gateway to the world"...\$2 billion [Expo 2012] has driven a waterfront makeover...it's a gem of a fair. By Knute Berger- Crosscut (Seattle)

Architecture Firm Websites: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly: Websites are a vital marketing tool. Unless you're a superstar design firm, steer clear of archi-speak and tricky graphics. Users want a site that is clean and simple. By Fred A. Bernstein - Julie Snow; Richard Staub; Frank Gehry; SANAA; Maya Lin; Peter Zumthor; OMA; Leong Leong Architecture; BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group; Antoine Predock; Morphosis; Elkus Manfredi Architects - Architectural Record

Architecture firm becoming 2 companies: One of the Phoenix area's best-known architects plans to part ways with his existing partners to form two separate architectural firms...Company officials described the split as "amicable" and said the decision to form two separate companies after 17 years of working together "reflects a natural evolution..." -- Will Bruder Architects; Rob Gaspard/Richard Jensen/Ben Nesbeitt/Worksbureau- Arizona Republic

Call for entries: Green Square Town Centre Library and Green Square Plaza International Competition- City of Sydney (Australia)

Albert Barnes Offers Critical Response to Placement of New "Barnes": He agrees to talk with fellow Central High School of Philadelphia alum after 61 years of silence, but only on the condition that his remarks remain unedited. This transcript respects his requirement. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group + FREAKS freearchitects: The MÉCA, Bordeaux, France

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